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# The Health of the Rural District of Luton



1968





Luton Rural District Council  
Public Health Department  
Sundon Road Houghton Regis  
Dunstable Bedfordshire



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Chief Public Health Inspector  
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MRS. STOCK (M.O.H's Secretary)



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Montpelier House,  
High Street South,  
DUNSTABLE.

The Chairman and Councillors of the  
Rural District of Luton.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Statistical  
Annual Report on the Health of the District.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-  
General was 35,600; this being an increase of 390 over  
the previous year.

The year was a healthy one and, except for  
measles, was comparatively free from infectious diseases.  
Once again there were no cases of diphtheria or  
poliomyelitis.

There were 641 births in the Rural District in  
1968 and 262 deaths. Diseases of the circulatory system  
are still the commonest cause of death. There were no  
deaths from child-birth during the year. Road accidents  
caused 4 deaths.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. L. G. Hill,  
Chief Public Health Inspector, for his assistance and  
co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER.

Medical Officer of Health



VITAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres) .. ..	46,204
Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1968 .. ..	35,600
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books .. ..	10,556
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1969 .. ..	£1,495,671
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March 1969 .. ..	6,700
Number of new houses erected during year ended 31st December, 1968:	
(a) Council .. ..	59
(b) Private .. ..	150

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Total	341	300	641
Legitimate	325	280	605
Illegitimate	16	20	36

Rate per 1,000 Population

<u>Crude</u>	<u>Corrected</u>
18.0	15.84

Still Births

Total	9	5	14
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 Total Births

21.0

Deaths of Infants (Under one year of age)

Total	3	4	7
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 Live Births

11.0

Deaths of Infants (Under four weeks of age)

	Male	Female	Total
Total	1	3	4
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>			
6.2			

Deaths of Infants (under one week of age)

Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>			
4.7			

Combined rate per 1,000 total live and  
still births = 26.0

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.6% of total  
live births

Maternal Deaths = Nil

Deaths

Male	159
Female	103
Total	262

Death Rates per 1,000 Population

All causes: Crude	7.4
Adjusted	6.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Tuberculosis	-
Influenza	0.3
Smallpox	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Pneumonia	0.7
All causes under 1 year of age	0.08

# Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
1. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	6	1	7
2. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	13	1	14
3. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	6	6
4. Leukaemia	1	2	3
5. Other Malignant Neoplasms	22	11	33
6. Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
7. Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
8. Avitaminoses, etc.	1	-	1
9. Other Endocrine etc. diseases	1	1	2
10. Anaemias	-	2	2
11. Mental Disorders	-	1	1
12. Meningitis	-	1	1
13. Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	2	1	3
14. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	2	5
15. Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	17	48
16. Other forms of Heart Disease	8	6	14
17. Cerebrovascular Disease	14	15	29
18. Other diseases of Circulatory System	3	6	9
19. Influenza	-	1	1
20. Pneumonia	15	11	26
21. Bronchitis and Emphysema	12	1	13
22. Asthma	1	-	1
23. Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	3	5
24. Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
25. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	2	3

	Male	Female	Total
26. Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	3	4
27. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
28. Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	3	5
29. Diseases of Skin, Sybcutaneous Tissue	1	-	1
30. Congenital Anomalies	1	3	4
31. Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2
32. Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	-	1
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
34. All other Accidents	5	1	6
35. Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	3	-	3
36. <u>Total All Causes</u>	159	103	262

Cancer of the stomach caused 7 deaths, compared with 4 last year and cancer of the lung (Bronchus) caused 14 deaths compared with 8 in the previous year.

Deaths below 55 years of age	38	12	50
Deaths over 75 years of age	61	50	111

## POPULATION

The population, as estimated by the Registrar-General, for 1968 was 35,600, and as will be seen from the under-mentioned table, there has been a total increase of 29,010 in the last ten years.

### Population 1959 - 1968

Year	Popul- ation	Increase or decrease over previous year	Natural Increase
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5
1964	33,580	8,990 (decrease)	11.7
1965	34,320	740	8.5
1966	34,950	630	5.6
1967	35,210	260	13.4
1968	35,600	390	9.3



### Birth Rate

Birth rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child-bearing age. The Registrar-General supplies a comparability factor for all areas so that an adjusted rate can be made. The 'factor' for this district is 0.88.

The Birth Rate for 1968 was 15.86, after multiplying the 'crude birth rate' of 18 by the 'comparability factor'. The total number of live births was 641.

### Still Births

The number of still births was 14 and the still birth rate 21 per 1,000 total births.

### Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 7.4, as compared with 7.1 for the previous year. To make allowance for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability Figure' of 0.88 by which a corrected death rate of 6.5 is obtained.

### Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 7, of which 3 were male and 4 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 11.0 per 1,000 live births over the year.

Four infant deaths were due to prematurity, 1 to pneumonia, 1 to respiratory distress syndrome, 1 to congenital heart disease.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age was 4, corresponding to a rate of 6.2 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified throughout the year:-

	Total cases notified	Rate per 1,000 population
Scarlet Fever	6	0.17
Whooping Cough	16	0.45
Measles	165	4.6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Dysentery	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.03
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	0.10
Infective Hepatitis	5	0.14
Acute Encephalitis	1	0.03

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	
5-14 years	-	1	-	-	
15-24 years	1	-	-	-	
25-44 years	1	2	1	-	
45-64 years	-	-	-	-	
65 years and over	2	-	-	-	
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	
Total	4	3	1	-	
Cases notified during:-					<u>Total</u>
1963	4	1	-	2	7
1964	4	4	1	2	11
1965	2	2	-	1	5
1966	3	2	-	1	6
1967	1	-	3	-	4
1968	4	3	1	-	8



Persons in need of care and attention

This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who:-

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal of any person during the year.

Long-Stay Immigrants

Seven long-stay Immigrants arrived in the district during the year 1968 and were visited in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1959 - 1968

		LIVE BIRTHS		STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
Year	Estimated Population	No.	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	No.	Rate Per 1,000 Total Births	No.	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks to 12 Months	Total	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	NUMBER			Rate Per 1,000 Total Births
												Sepsis	Others	Total	
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7				
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	-	2	2	2.4
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6				
1962	41,090	1149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2				
1963	42,570	1050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8				
1964	33,580	902	22.2	6	6.6	236	10.5	8	2	10	11.1	-	1	1	1.1
1965	34,320	777	18.8	14	17.7	245	10.15	8	6	14	18.0				
1966	34,950	727	17.3	8	10.8	288	11.7	9	1	10	13.8				
1967	35,210	713	19.6	9	12.0	250	6.2	6	1	7	9.8				
1968	35,600	641	15.8	14	21.0	262	6.5	4	3	7	11.0				

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## HOUSING

### Housing Act 1957

Progress in dealing with unfit houses continued and the following figures summarize the rate thereof:-

Demolished	( 36 Formal
	( 8 Informal
Closed	4
Restored (Section 24)	3
Rendered fit	32
Reported (Section 16 etc.)	16
	<hr/>
Total	99
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During the post war years 694 unfit houses not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost have been dealt with as follows:-

Demolished	397
Closed	65
Informal undertaking not to use for human habitation	31
Houses subject to Demolition Orders but occupied or otherwise awaiting demolition	67
Restored	134
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Total	694
	<hr/>

Unfit houses to be dealt with during the next five years = 248.

### Improvements

Approximately 90% of houses in the district have the basic amenities for which improvement grants are available. The remainder are being dealt with informally. Progress has not always been as smooth as had been hoped, but with older houses this is often due to the impracticability of providing an extension at the rear of the house without interfering with the free access of light to existing rooms. The cost of such improvements, in addition to executing works required to render the house in all respects fit in many instances is not reasonable, and the houses are scheduled for treatment under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 which results either in restoration and improvement or demolition.

CARAVANS

Residential and Holiday Sites

<u>Permanent Licensed Sites</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of Caravans</u>
Holding 1 caravan	18	18
2-10 "	9	33
11-50 "	8	230
51-100 "	2	123
over 100 "	2	203
Total	39	607

Seven sites have been voluntarily terminated during the year or otherwise licences have expired and renewal thereof has not been sought.

There are two holiday sites withing the district with a total capacity of 50 caravans.

Eleven breaches of licensing conditions were found and subsequently remedied.

Local Authority Site

The Council provides a residential site at Hockliffe with standings for 60 caravans.

Gypsies and Other Travellers

During the year the number of caravans stationed on roadside verges, on greenways, bridleways and in some instances, without authority on private land, have varied in number between 30 to 70. Many of these left the County of Hertfordshire and the Stopsley area of Luton in 1965 and have since been itinerant in various parts of the district. In addition to this, gypsies and other travellers who had formerly encamped on the outskirts of towns in places usually referred to as Gypsy Lane have, as a result of town development towards their boundaries, been forced to find sites in the rural district. Most of these itinerants obtain their living by salvaging waste from the affluent towns, and for that reason they chose to station their caravans somewhere within the boundary parishes, which in this district are Caddington, Sundon and to a lesser extent Houghton Regis, Streatley and Totternhoe.



Approximately 30 of these families refer to themselves as Bedfordshire Gypsies and are usually those who, in the first place, occupied the temporary site at Heath & Reach and later at Watling Street/Caddington Turn and when the latter site flooded, left and enabled the site to be taken over by a number of Irish gypsies and tinkers. These left considerable quantities of waste and rubbish on the site and later, so disregarded the authority of the person obtained to control the site for the County Council that it was closed.

A number of these persons found their way to the verges on the recently constructed Woodside Road and Sundon Park Road.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Works on the main drainage scheme to serve the villages of Eaton Bray, Stanbridge, Tilsworth, Totternhoe, Eggington and subsequently, Hockliffe and Billington continued during the year and it is hoped that the sewer will be available for connection thereto in September 1969. The use of this should have a beneficial effect upon the cesspool emptying service, which will enable your Engineer and Surveyor to provide for more efficient attention to cesspools in remote places and in the few parishes without main drainage.

### Streatley

The need for the provision of main drainage here has become a matter of the utmost urgency, this being due to the silting-up of soakaways which were constructed more than 30 years ago. These are now overflowing and polluting ditches and land, which constitute a permanent nuisance and a hazard to public health. Having regard to the fact that the provision of a sewer for this village does not involve the construction of disposal works and the acquisition of land for this purpose, the scheme should be proceeded without any further delay.

### Unsewered Areas

This will leave the parishes of Studham (pop. 882) and Whipsnade (pop. 661) only without main drainage and the hamlets of Wingfield, Pepperstock, Sharpenhoe, Wellhead (off Tring Road), Skimpot (Caravan Site), Bidwell and a few isolated areas in the parish of Hyde.

### Cesspool Emptying Service

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor. A free service is given to domestic properties of up to twelve emptyings per year, depending upon the availability of the service, there being at the end of the year a total of 1,074 cesspools in the district.

The service is operated by 5 1,000 gall. cesspool emptying machines manned by 10 men and during the year 4,998 cesspools were emptied, a total of 12,368 loads covering a total of 80,914 miles.

### Ponds, Ditches and Watercourses

I regret that there is no improvement to report in this respect and not likely to be so until the Eaton Bray and district main drainage scheme becomes effectual. It is in the area covered by this scheme that most of the pollution of ditches and watercourses occur and as I have repeatedly stated in this report, not until foul water is excluded will ponds, ditches and watercourses function satisfactorily.

## FOOD

### Food Premises in District

Bakehouses and Shops	5
Bakers Shops	1
Butchers	17
Catering Premises	13
Canteens	12
Confectioners	20
Fish Shops	7
Greengrocers	10
Grocers/General	62
Licensed Premises	66
Off Licence Premises	5
Supermarkets	1
	<hr/>
	219
	<hr/>

All the 219 food premises in the district have hand-washing facilities and therefore comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Regulation 19 which requires the fitting of sinks for washing food and equipment is complied with in all the 195 premises to which it applies.

## Mobile Shops

The Food Hygiene (Market Stalls & Delivery Vehicle) Regulations 1966 came into force on 1st January, 1967. Twenty-eight mobile shops have been inspected this year.

## Licensed Premises

### 1. Catering Facilities

Since November 1967 and the breathalizer, more and more licensees have turned to catering as a means to attract more custom. In fact 25 of the 66 public houses must be considered to be in the same category as restaurants. Generally speaking the facilities in the premises, although they comply with the legal standards, are not really satisfactory, the problem being the encroachment of the domestic use of the kitchen on the catering operation. Ideally, the solution would be the provision of two kitchens in each house, one for catering and the other for domestic use. In practice, however, the cost of doing this in the majority of cases would be prohibitive. In other cases the space is just not available.

This matter has been taken up with the brewers operating the district and they have all agreed to improve the catering facilities where possible. The minimum standard being the provision of a double sink, a washhand-basin and in some cases, installation of an improved hot water supply. Several improvement and conversion schemes have already taken place. In two instances where the catering operation is on a fairly large scale separate kitchen facilities have been provided for catering use. The breweries are co-operating with the Department and more improvements are planned for next year.

### 2. Sanitary Accommodation

This varies from the very good in houses which have recently been remodelled to the primitive in an unfortunately large number of country premises. This problem has been discussed with the brewers concerned who have agreed that during the next few years every attempt will be made to achieve the following standard:-

- (i) that all sanitary accommodation should be capable of being entered without going outside the building;
- (ii) that the structure, internal surfaces and fitting should be of a modern standard and
- (iii) that hand-washing facilities should be provided for the use of customers.



### Meat Inspection

One hundred per cent meat inspection is maintained at the two private slaughterhouses in the district, for which the maximum charges permitted by the Regulations are made.

Informal arrangements specifying days and times of slaughtering at these slaughterhouses have been made.

#### Carcases and offal inspected

	Bovine	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
Number killed	88	10	47	4,314
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci				
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	2	3	43
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	9	1	1	1,166
% affected with disease	10.2%	30.0%	8.5%	28.0%
Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticerci	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

A total of 2 tons 6 cwts 23½ lbs of unsound meat was surrendered.

### Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

At the beginning of December, a guide outlining hygienic procedures to be observed in the preparation of poultry was sent to fifty-one smallholders and farmers who may have been engaged in the "Christmas poultry trade". Twenty-seven visits were made to such premises and on each occasion it was found that the principles of food hygiene were observed.

Visits were made, as far as was possible, when evisceration of the birds was in progress. This being the best time for inspection and valuation of the carcase. This process is basically dirty and emphasis was made to operatives that this operation should be performed under cleanest possible conditions to avoid contamination. No evidence of diseases capable of affecting man were found.

Of the premises inspected, only one was processing turkeys, the remainder killing capons.

#### Unfit Food

Nine complaints were received from members of the public concerning the condition of food purchased by them.

All the cases were thoroughly investigated and where necessary any relevant information was passed on to the Public Health Inspector in the area in which the food originated.

In two cases it was necessary for the Council to send to the tradesman responsible for the contravention, a letter warning them that should they be involved in similar incidents the Council would consider legal action.

#### Health Education

Lectures on the work of the Health Department are given to local organisations on request.

#### Training of Food Handlers

Two courses were held for food handlers; each course consisting of six lectures given by a member of the Department followed by an oral examination. Ten of the people attending the course were successful in gaining the Hygienic Food Handlers Certificate of the St. John Ambulance Association. Further courses are to be arranged.

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## WATER SUPPLY

### Private Sources

Samples of water were taken from dwelling houses which are supplied by wells and boreholes. Where bacteriological examination indicated the water to be suspect, if the pollution could not be eliminated, advice was given as to the chlorination of the supply.

There are approximately one hundred houses in the district not yet served by a public water main. Some eighty of these dwellings are within the parish of Hyde and are supplied by the Luton Hoo private estate borehole. The remainder are houses which are remote from a public main.

### Public Mains Supply

The district is within the statutory areas of two water undertakers. The Luton Water Company supplying the southern part of the district and the Bedfordshire Water Board in the northern part. One hundred and thirty samples were taken from premises served by the public mains supply for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. All samples were satisfactory.

The following information has been prepared in conjunction with the water undertakers:-

Parish	No. of domestic properties supplied from public water mains		Total	Estimated Population
	direct to houses	by stand pipe		
Barton	1,179	8	1,187	3,704
Billington	89	4	93	651
Caddington	1,440	2	1,442	5,477
Chalgrave	88	23	111	356
Eaton Bray	525	3	528	1,664
Eggington	80	1	81	325
Heath & Reach	335	1	336	1,197
Hockliffe	148	11	159	575
Houghton				
Regis	2,944	Nil	2,944	10,256
Hyde	71	Nil	71	227
Kensworth	470	5	475	1,233
Stanbridge	216	2	218	803
Streatley	161	11	172	717
Studham	261	5	266	876
Sundon	153	10	163	481
Tilsworth	94	Nil	94	347
Toddington	1,232	36	1,268	3,903
Totternhoe	456	Nil	456	1,792
Whipsnade	92	1	93	656
TOTALS	10,034	123	10,157	35,240

The dwellings which are still supplied by standpipes are those that are anticipated to have a short life and will be demolished in the not too distant future.

### Chemical Analysis

The following is a typical analysis of the source used by the Luton Water Company as supplies for the Rural District.

	Periwinkle Lane	Runley Wood	Kensworth Lynch	Friars Wash
Parts per 100,000				
Free Ammonia	0.0002	0.024	0.0002	0.0001
Albuminoid				
Ammonia	0.0001	0.001	0.0004	0.0001
Nitrite p.p.m.N.	Nil	0.002	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrate	0.49	0.29	0.29	0.41
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Chlorine	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.8
Total hardness	29.2	38.6	29.6	29.6
Permanent hardness	6.7	10.5	3.2	4.6
Sulphate	2.1	14.7	0.9	1.2
Total solids	37.8	53.6	34.4	35.6
pH value	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.3
Parts per Million				
Iron (as Fe)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fluorine	0.02	0.25	0.02	0.05
Source	1	2	3	4
Key - 1 Supplies Totternhoe				
2 Supplies Houghton Regis				
3 Supplies Studham, Whipsnade, Kensworth, Caddington, Eaton Bray				
4 Supplies Houghton Regis				

All samples were clear and free from smell. A microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral and vegetable fragments.



The following analysis has been supplied by the Bedfordshire Water Board as being typical of their Pulloxhill source which supplies the Barton area.

Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units)	Nil
Reaction (pH)	7.50
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per cc at 20°C)	370
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (Free and Saline Ammonia)	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace
Nitrogen in Nitrates	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	20
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	54
Total Hardness	205
Calcium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	168
Magnesium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	37
Free Carbon Dioxide	10
Iron as Fe	Less than 0.04
Lead	None found
Zinc	None found
Copper	None found
Sodium as Na	10
Potassium as K	2
Manganese as Mn	None found
Fluorine as F	0.19
Silica (Molybdate reactive)	22

parts per  
million

### Fluoride

The natural fluoride content of the water of the various sources of supply varies from 0.05 to 0.25 parts per million.

## NOISE

Eleven complaints of noise nuisance were received, investigated and remedied informally.

Investigations reveal that although the conditions complained of disturb the quietness of the countryside, they cannot normally be termed 'statutory nuisances'.

### Analysis of causes of complaint

Fans, generators and machinery	5
Vehicular noise	3
Barking dogs	2
Bird scaring device	1

REFUSE COLLECTION

This information has been provided by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

A weekly refuse collection service in respect of domestic premises is given. The skip system of collection is used and the service is operated by 26 men with five vehicles; two 50 cu.yd. Bedford Eagle Crush Loaders, one 35 cu.yd. Bedford Eagle Compressmore and two 18/24 cu.yd. Compressmores. In addition to this service, a collection of bulky articles and extraneous refuse is made, on request without charge, from domestic premises.

Despite the provision of these services and the opening of the refuse tip to the public, it is necessary to provide for the clearance of rubbish which is deposited on roadside verges throughout the district.

A contractor is employed to remove abandoned derelict vehicles.

A separate trade refuse service is given by two men with a Shelvoke and Drewry 25 cu.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper with bulk container attachment, which also provides a collection four days each week from the Motorway Service Station at Toddington.

Refuse is disposed of at one central controlled tip.

The weekly task incentive bonus scheme has continued to work satisfactorily.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND  
RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Abstract of the Act

A copy of the abstract of the Act is provided by the Council to the occupiers of all newly registered premises.

Registration of Premises

Twenty-four new premises were registered under the provisions of the Act. No applications were made for the exemption under the provisions of sections 5, 6 or 9 of the Act.

Classification of registered premises

Offices	31
Retail Shops	84
Warehouses	2
Catering Establishments	25
Fuel storage depots	1
	<hr/>
	143
	<hr/>

### Analysis of persons employed

Offices	250
Retail Shops	326
Warehouses	28
Catering Establishments	340
Canteens	5
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	<hr/> 951 <hr/>

(350 males, 601 females)

### Inspections

Seventy-one general inspections of premises were made.

### Contraventions

A summary of the contraventions found is set out below:-

Section	4 Cleanliness	7
	6 Temperature	14
	8 Lighting	2
	9 Sanitary conveniences	8
	10 Washing facilities	3
	12 Clothing accommodation	4
	13 Sitting facilities	1
	16 Floors, passages & stairs	17
	17 Fencing exposed parts machinery	4
	24 First aid provisions	14
	Total	<hr/> 74 <hr/>

Letters were sent to the owners of the premises concerned requesting them to remedy these contraventions.

### Prosecutions

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of any offence at registered premises.

### Accidents

Number of accidents notified	Males	3
	Females	5
Total (all non-fatal)		<hr/> 8 <hr/>
Number of days lost through accidents		80
Average number of days lost per accident		10

Classification of accident causes

Falls of persons	3
Involving machinery	1
transport	2
stepping on or striking	
against object or person	1
struck by falling object	1

One accident occurred for every 119 persons employed in registered premises in 1968 compared with 1 accident for every 152.8 persons employed in 1967. The number of days lost through accidents in 1968 was 80 compared with 51 in 1967.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections for purposes of Part I of the Act

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Notices Issued
Factories in which Sections 1 to 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not in- cluded in previous category in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority.	64	16	2
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	7	9	Nil
Total	71	25	2



# Details of cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-

No prosecutions were instigated.

## Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list
Wearing apparel - making etc.	52
Christmas stockings etc.	10
Lampshades	1
Making of brushes	1

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Houghton Regis

The circumstances in this village, particularly in those parts lying North East of the cement works, still leave much to be desired. Two years after the completion of the extensions to the works it appears to be evident that the Cement Company's assurance that the total emission of dust from the works would be less than had been known before, was unlikely to be fulfilled.

Deposits of dust in the Malmsey and Manor Park areas were higher than pre 1966 and this was confirmed by both Deposit Gauge Records and the seriousness of complaints. Householders who previously had not complained were becoming restive.

The attention of both the District Alkali Inspector and the Management were continuously drawn to the unfavourable circumstances and eventually, works likely to reduce the low level emissions of dust were put in hand, some of which were completed during the year. It is being constantly stressed to the Management that vigilance and efficiency in general "Housekeeping" in and about the cement works would improve the lot of many householder living nearby and thus reduce the number and seriousness of complaints.

#### Sundon and Chalton

Having regard to the distance these villages are from the Sundon Cement Works, circumstances which constitute a nuisance should not become evident. This is far from being the case and complaints from residents at Sundon are received at fairly regular intervals. These usually refer to black deposits and external decorative repair to dwellings is generally a marked casualty in this respect.

An extremely serious intensification of this type of nuisance occurred over the village of Chalton during August and September and the Management admitted that the heavy black deposits over the village had been caused by heavy rainfall so saturating the pulverised fuel used in the manufacturing process that combustion had been inefficient and incomplete, resulting in the black products of improper combustion being carried by a persistent North East wind over the village. One would have expected, after more than half a century of experience in the making of cement that such a necessary precaution would have been taken. Here again, the need for constant vigilance in matters generally referred to as housekeeping cannot be over-stressed.

#### Heath & Reach

Complaints from tenants in the Thomas Street and Reach Lane areas appeared to justify complaints regarding the fall-out of sand dust at the Bedford Silica Plant situated in Reach Lane.

Whereas precautions taken in reducing dust emissions from the loading of lorries at the front of the works had tended to reduce the nuisance, the amount of sand dust falling from the elevator belt and being blown off accumulations of dust from various hoppers on the site, increased in intensity. Although quarry or pit sand gives rise to little nuisance except during dry Summer weather, sand which has been dried by processes of heating is influenced by the slightest movement of air or wind and the significance of these factors was not adequately appreciated by the Management.

However, before the end of the year some indication of measures which were likely to arrest the dust from these sources had been forthcoming.

#### Control of chimney heights

Thirteen plans were submitted to the Council in connection with the erection of new chimneys. In each case, the proposed chimney height was not sufficient but following discussions, the applicants amended the height to the Department's satisfaction.

## PEST CONTROL

### Rodents

The advertisements and press notices requesting householders to report every single rat or signs of rat infestation, appear to have produced the desired results. The complaints of infestation received this year, although in number less than the increase which followed the initial publicity, were found to be of less intensity than the previous year and generally there seems to have been an improvement in the situation.

#### Rodent control report

	Type of property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of prop- erties in district	11,907	406
Total number of properties inspected following notification	2,339	35
Number infested by		
1. Rats	818	4
2. Mice	59	Nil
Total number of properties in- spected other than after notification	395	Nil
Number infested by		
1. Rats	165	Nil
2. Mice	6	Nil

The number of complaints with respect to wasps decreased substantially but the wet Summer doubtless accounted for this. The services of the Assistant Pests Officer appears to be in increasing demand to deal with various insect pests such as clover mites, and has this year dealt with 40 miscellaneous insect infestations.

PETROLEUM

One hundred and twenty-seven inspections were made of the 80 premises licensed to store petroleum. The Council granted two new licences under the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928/36, and gave permission for the extension of the petroleum storing facilities at one other existing installation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The circumstances in this respect have made a remarkable change for the better. Whereas twenty years ago hardly a week passed without cases being reported involving investigation, disinfection of rooms and sometimes houses, nowadays, rarely is a case heard of. In this field the investigating of cases of food poisoning, salmonella and the like are matters for priority.

Immigrants

All "long stay immigrants" settling in this district are visited in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

Library Books

Books issued by a Branch Library within the district which subsequently come into contact with an infectious disease are disinfected before being returned to circulation. Ninety-three books were so treated.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION

ANIMALS	
Animal Boarding Establishments	11
Pet Shops	3
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION	187
FACTORIES	
Mechanical	16
Building Sites	9



FOOD	
Catering Premises	59
Bakehouses	1
Food Complaints & Investigations	33
Licensed Premises & Clubs	72
Meat Inspection	292
Mobile Shops	28
Retail Food Shops	28
Ice-Cream	10
HEALTH EDUCATION	17
HOUSING	
Houses Inspected	323
Reinspections	144
Other Visits	314
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	
Investigations	17
Disinfections	4
Swabs & Specimens	26
NUISANCES	
Premises	103
Animals	29
Disinfestations	3
Noise Abatement	77
Rodent Control	128
Pests	88
Miscellaneous Visits	70
OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT	
General Inspections	71
Reinspections	45
Accident Investigations	5
PETROLEUM	
Routine Inspections	125
New Installations	2
SAMPLING	
Ice-Cream	1
Milk	11
Water	126
SANITATION	
Ditches & Watercourses	74
Refuse Accumulation etc.	115
Sewerage and Drainage	515
Water Supply	17
SPECIAL PREMISES	
Caravans	470
Farms (Welfare Provisions)	3
Halls	4
Schools	3
Scrap Metal Dealers	17
Swimming Pools	1
Poultry Packers	27

## WELFARE

Welfare	8
Long-Stay Immigrants	2

## ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Nuisance of varying descriptions arose during the year but were mainly with respect to disrepair and defects in dwellings, defective and choked drainage and the improper keeping of animals.

The indiscriminate dumping of rubbish on roadsides and greenways has become a recurring nuisance but thanks to the co-operation of the Engineer and Surveyor in removing this rubbish at intervals, the circumstances are kept within bounds.

It was not found necessary to resort to Statutory Action during the year.

## NEW LEGISLATION

New legislation of interest included the following:-

The Rent Act 1968 made further provision with respect to rents and security of tenure.

Changes in the procedure for the notification of infectious diseases were made by The Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

Part I of The Caravan Sites Act 1968 affords protection against harassment and security of tenure for the occupiers of caravans. Part II is devoted to the provision of sites by Local Authorities for the use of gypsy families.

The provision regarding the approval of chimney heights by Local Authorities have been amended by The Clean Air Act 1968.

### Statutory Instruments

The following new regulations affect the work of the department.

Imported Food Regulations 1968.  
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises  
(Hoists and Lifts) Regulations 1968.  
The Public Health (Infectious Disease)  
Regulations 1968.  
Inflammable Liquids (Conveyance by Road)  
Regulations 1968  
The Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and  
Dust) Regulations 1968.

## STAFF

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the staff for the loyalty and efficiency with which they have carried out their duties.

Mr. T. C. Oliver - Additional Public Health Inspector who carries the responsibility of being my deputy.

Mr. A. Turvey - Additional Public Health Inspector. During the year Mr. Turvey obtained the Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors' Education Board and was subsequently appointed Additional Public Health Inspector. The examination for this Diploma covers the courses formerly promoted for Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Mrs. E. Ostapczuk - Secretary.

Mrs. K. Wakelam - Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Part-time)

Mr. E. Todd - Assistant Pests Officer. Mr. Todd retired during the year after having completed 41 years as an employee of the Council. He has been a most reliable and faithful officer, having been in charge of the Council's Cesspool Emptying Service for most of this time, but in recent years has held the post referred to above.

Mr. H. G. Wright - Assistant Pests Officer. Mr. Wright succeeded Mr. Todd, commencing his duties in April.

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL

Chief Public Health Inspector.







